

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/613,883

Examiner

Amy J. Sterling

Applicant(s)

MORAN, RONALD D.

Art Unit

3632

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/16/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-8,10,12,13,16-27 and 29.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 03 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

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***Notice of Allowance***

This is the Notice of Allowance for application number 10/613,883 Method and Apparatus for Retaining Model Structural Members filed on 7/3/03. Claims 2-8, 10, 12, 13, 16-27 and 29 are allowed.

***Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not show wherein a model structural member having a thickness the height of the engagement surface of the lobe height between the flange and the peg.

The reason is that the prior art does not show wherein the arm includes a shoulder extending outwardly from the frame and a finger spaced from one of the edges for receiving and holding a model structural member in a space located between the edges and the finger.

The prior art also does not teach the method of providing a base member having a plurality of recesses therein, at least one retainer having a peg of a first transverse dimension complementally sized for receipt in the recesses, a flange having a second transverse dimension substantially greater than the first transverse dimension, a lobe positioned between the flange and the peg, the lobe having a greater cross-sectional area than the peg to resist entry into a recess of the base member and having a transverse dimension which is smaller than the second transverse dimension of the flange, and a handle extending from the flange opposite the peg, the retainer being

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formed as a unitary member whereby turning of the handle causes the retainer to pivot about the peg when the peg is received within one of the recesses. and a plurality of model structural members, holding a first of the plurality of model structural members in contact with the base member using the at least one retainer by inserting the peg of the at least one retainer into a recess proximate the model structural member with at least a portion of the model structural member held by the flange against the base member and bonding a second one of the plurality of model structural members to the first of the plurality of structural members curing the bond between the first and second structural members.

### ***Conclusion***

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

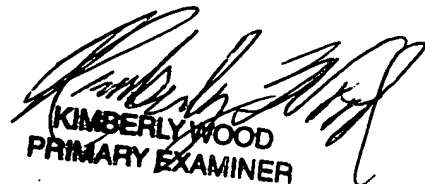
Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Amy J. Sterling at telephone number 571-272-6823. The examiner can normally be reached (M-F 8 a.m.-5:00 p.m.). If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski at 571-272-6788. The fax machine number for the -Technology center is 571-273-8300 (formal amendments) or 571-273-6823 (informal amendments/communications). Any inquiry of a general -nature or relating to

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the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist at  
571-272-3600.



AJS  
Amy J. Sterling  
8/26/05



KIMBERLY WOOD  
PRIMARY EXAMINER